

National Trust

eNews

The National Trust of Australia (NT) is a community based, not for profit heritage charity dedicated to promoting and conserving the heritage of the Northern Territory.



NATIONAL TRUST
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Audit House

"The Giese Legacy"



Read about our special event that honoured Nan and Harry Giese's legacy at Audit House

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The Roadmaster's House is open for business.



The National Trust has finally signed the 10 year lease for the Roadmasters House at 1 McMinn Street Darwin. This was the culmination of two years of effort by many people including Eddie Webber and Janet Leather, Trevor and Helen Menzies and our Director Elizabeth.



OPENING HOURS

Sunday	10am – 1pm
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	10am – 1pm
Wednesday	10am – 1pm
Thursday	10am – 1pm
Friday	10am – 1pm
Saturday	CLOSED

PATRON

His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM
Administrator of the Northern Territory

PRESIDENT

Mr Trevor Horman AM

VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Laurelle Halford

TREASURER

Ms. Petrena Ariston

BRANCH COUCELLORS

Ms. Janet Webber

Mr. Edward Orchard Somerville-Collie

Ms. Prue Crouch

Mrs. Stephanie Hill

GENERAL COUNCILLORS

Dr. Jan Hills

Mr. David Hewitt OAM

Dr. Bill Low

MEMBERSHIP 2016

	1 year	3 years
Individual	\$65.00	\$195.00
Household	\$95.00	\$285.00
Senior	\$58.50	\$175.50
Senior Household	\$85.50	\$256.50
Pensioner	\$52.00	\$156.00
Pensioner Household	\$76.00	\$228.00
Joining fee	\$35.00	

The National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory) is a community organisation which seeks to conserve the Territory's heritage.

Membership is open to everyone.



Alistair Shields

An opening function was held on Tuesday evening 23 August, which was well attended. Many thanks to Alastair Shields, long term member and friend of the National Trust for performing the official opening. Attendees included former residents of the house, members of the surveying fraternity, historians, kindred organisations, Trust members and supporters.

Visitors to the house will appreciate the enormous effort and contribution that has been made by Trevor and Helen Menzies in terms of the displays and fitting out the house. They have recruited five attendants so far and opening hours are 10am to 1pm at present. Promotion of the existence of the museum is the next action item. This site will give us CBD exposure and enhance our brand considerably.



Trevor Horman & Ian Robinson



Helen Menzies & Janet Leather

So take your visitors and friends for a wander down to our newest museum and have a look. We are on TripAdvisor! We are also on Facebook!

Audit House - the Giese Legacy



Garden Sign

On a beautiful dry season Saturday afternoon, 10th September 2016, the National Trust hosted a special event to honour Nan and Harry Giese, significant Territorians and long time tenants of Audit House.

Two interpretation signs were placed in the garden and unveiled by His Honour the Administrator of the Northern Territory, John Hardy OAM. These will provide visitors to the House with a good insight into its story.

His Honour spoke of the contributions made by both Nan and Harry to the life and culture of Darwin and the Northern Territory. The audience was made up of many people who had known both of the Gieses and had fond memories of Audit House and its remarkable gardens.

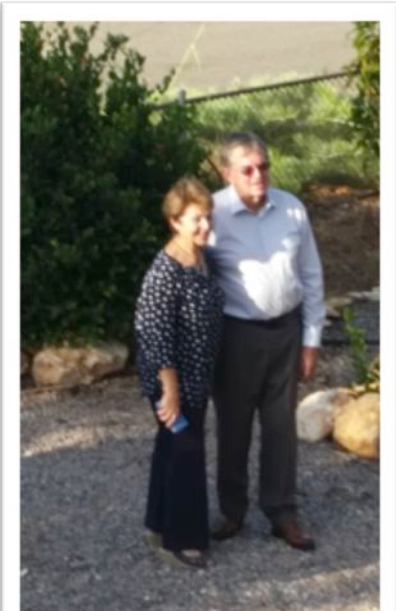
National Trust Councillor Jan Hills spoke about the gardens under the care of the Gieses and of the work that the Trust is undertaking to develop the gardens into the future.

Harry Giese established the first garden at Audit House when the family first arrived in 1954. The plants available back then were restricted, as some of us will recall, but it was possible to make a colourful show. After Cyclone Tracy the garden was re-established and became the lush tropical garden many remember.

Under the National Trust's care the garden has been reshaped leaving native trees that have popped up, but trimming back other adventitious growth; reshaping the frangipani and allowing other plants to revitalise. Native ground covers and other plants are being added to enhance the garden in this third generation planting, as the Trust is mindful of reducing the water requirement.



Jan Hills greets Mr. & Mrs. Hardy



His Honour, Mr. Hardy & Nora Lewis

The National Trust Council is giving thought and consideration to turning Audit House into a house Museum. This will take quite a deal of planning and research and the stories and memories of Territorians associated with it would be most welcome. Financial support will become very important too.

Members of the audience were encouraged to inspect the House and to wander through the heritage precinct to see some of the other changes including the creation of a performance space at the Stahl Garden.

The National Trust is most grateful for the financial assistance that supported this event. Thanks go to the City of Darwin, the Community Benefit Fund and the Heritage Branch.



Peter Russell & Heather Sjöberg



Katherine Branch News

Visitors to our Katherine National Trust properties from all around Australia and the World leave some wonderful rewarding comments in the Visitors' Book that give us the incentive to carry on volunteering and preserving our history. Our simple little 1942 Army Officers Mess, O'Keeffe House, has recently received some lovely comments, a few of which we would like to share to convey the enjoyment that our efforts bring:-

" Re the photo on the dressing table- The bride is my mother and Olive O'Keeffe (the bridesmaid) is her sister. Visiting today with my youngest son. Wonderful surprise to see that photo!" Qld. " Fascinating- so pleased it is still preserved." UK visitors. " Beautifully presented history." Hamburg, Germany.

" My brother-in law lived here in the mid-fifties-Love it!" Qld. " I would love to live here." Local school girls. " So many pieces of memorabilia- takes me back." Queensland " Lovely- Amazing- well worth it" NSW. " Very friendly and informative." Victorians " Beautiful, love the gardens too." Amsterdam girls.

All that we need now are more volunteers to keep the properties open on a regular basis so that visitors are not being disappointed by closed gates. I actually experienced that feeling recently when the group I was travelling with were unable to gain entry to the Old Timber Creek Police Station, which all were very keen to visit.

The 1926 Railway Station has certainly benefitted from the presence of a new volunteer who has made a great contribution to the book exchange as evidenced by her organisational skills bringing increased visitation and income to the property. Thank you Jill White and also to long time volunteer there Pauline Hatley.

As we draw close to the end of the tourist season there are a couple of events to take place in the next few weeks. These include our annual plant sale and also catering, in conjunction with the local CWA branch, at the Women of the World Festival at Godinymayin Arts and Cultural Centre in Katherine from the 16th to 18th September. A couple of other fund raising functions have also been suggested and will be held depending upon sufficient support from members.

McDouall Stuart Branch News

The AGM was held on Sunday 14th August with a new committee elected.

The 2016/2017-committee members of the McDouall Stuart Branch are:

Chair: Bill Low

Treasurer: Kevin Diflo

Secretary: Joel Crawford

Committee members include

David Hewitt, Ian Mann, Brenda Shields, Pat Ansel Dodds, Maureen Burbridge and Jean Celli. We welcome new members, Ian Mann, Joel Crawford and Brenda Shields.

The speaker at the AGM was Jan Heaslip from Bond Springs Station.

Jan Heaslip is a big supporter of our Branch through various ways, including the Heritage Festival and with her support we have been able to add to the history record of Alice Springs. Jan's talk traced the story of her life in Central Australia from her arrival in 1957 as a teenager working for Elders to the present. Not long after arriving, she took on the position of Governess for the Prior family on Hamilton Downs Station, which was the beginning of a lifelong involvement in education. The talk included details of this involvement across all aspects of education in the bush – from teaching the Prior children, then managing her own children's education on School of the Air and boarding school, taking a leading role in the Isolated Children's Parents Association and being pivotal in the establishment of St Phillips College as a school in its own right. Amongst it all, she describes how she has coped with the responsibilities of station wife and mother, including running a Bed and Breakfast on the property, as well as being a community leader with a vision for enhancing the lives of families in Outback Australia.

Treasurer Kevin Diflo reported some interesting statistics at the AGM. Kevin has also set in place a new form to provide easier documentation, which will lead to better statistics for the future.

Since the AGM August 2015 to July 2016 (approximate number)

Paying Visitors HSS 684 adults + 38 children

Paying Visitors STG 49

National Trust Visitors 65 (+13 children recorded in 2016)

Heard about us:

Brochure	7
Visitor Guide	46
Walk past	155
Website	2
Word of mouth	14

Origin of Visitors:

Australia	322
U.K	59
U.S.A	9
Europe	28
Asia	4
Other (N.Z.)	6

There have been some interesting visitors to the Hartley Street School, with long connections to Alice Springs who have written in the Visitors Book.

Larrakeyah Branch News



Fran Wickes is a retired nurse and the title of her talk was "However did I grow up to be normal?" Fran is a very entertaining speaker with a great sense of humour. Fran told stories of growing up in the UK during the war years.

After the death of her mother Fran had rather a disjointed childhood as she was moved from relative to relative.

She was obviously a mischievous and adventurous child and had many tales, both funny and sad, to tell.

It was on one of these transfers that Fran decided to join another group of children who were obviously going somewhere more interesting. Fran has written Occasional Papers, available from the Historical Society.



Michael Furstner's Bridge Club. Michael teaches Bridge and takes his class to all different venues. They have even been in Bali and Vietnam. Burnett House is amongst their favourite spots for a bridge afternoon.

Behind the Scenes at Burnett House

I think that many National Trust Members and most of our visitors take it for granted that Sunday Afternoon Tea at Burnett House just "happens". That's what I thought until I recently started turning up at Burnett on Sunday afternoons.

The sign out the front says Sunday Afternoon Teas 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

Only a couple of hours you think - no big deal. So I thought I would take you behind the scenes on a typical Sunday afternoon in the Dry to see just what happens.

IN THE GARDEN

12.15 pm.

Turning up at Burnett House to find Anna Harris had already taken more than 40 chairs from the shed. 10 chairs at a time on the trolley.

These are stacked on the verandah to keep them out of the sun.

That's 4 round trips at least, each one taking 2 or 3 minutes.

12.30pm

Next come the tables. 9 in all from the shed - 3 at a time on the trolley. They are off-loaded, set up and carried to the shade for now.

The tablecloths are taken out of storage and secured to the tables by clothes pegs at each corner and the tables are ready to be laid.

Cups, saucers, teaspoons, water glasses, serviette holders, sugar bowl and table number all have to be carried from the table outside the laundry and placed on each of the tables.

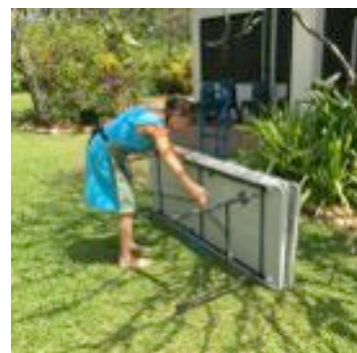
A folder containing the menus, information on the House, the latest edition of Off the Leash and more will be put out later around 2.30 so they don't blow away in the wind.

IN THE LAUNDRY

1.00pm

Meanwhile the laundry has to be set up for the mammoth task of washing up later. Buckets for scraps (not many of them by the way !), slops, coffee grounds and used serviettes.

Buckets for a prewash of plates and cutlery and washing and rinsing bowls in the double sink at the back. The servers table and umbrellas also need setting up.



1.20pm

Time for a short break before moving on to the kitchen.

IN THE KITCHEN

1.35pm.

First job is to make sure the 2 large urns are filled and heating up, before moving on to laying out the teapots, coffee plungers, water jugs and milk jugs ready for filling later.



The coffee plungers are filled (5 scoops for big and 3 for small) and the big tea balls loaded with 7 level teaspoons of Orange Pekoe and the small ones with 5 level teaspoons of Earl Grey, a formula worked out over many years experience.

2.15pm

The stove top is set up with the two aluminium "teapots" and the specialist teas.

2.20pm

Next comes the strawberry jam for the Devonshire Teas. 22 equal servings - (not as easy as you would think), these are stored in covered containers.



MEANWHILE BACK IN THE GARDEN

2.00 - 2.20pm

By now the first of the Volunteers have turned up and attention is focussed on moving the tables into shady locations on the lawns and setting out the chairs. A two person job at least with the tables already laid. Two tables for larger groups of 12 or more are set up on the West lawn near Audit House.

2.30pm

The first guests are starting to arrive and are greeted downstairs and invited to have a look around the House before getting escorted to a table by one of the outside volunteers.

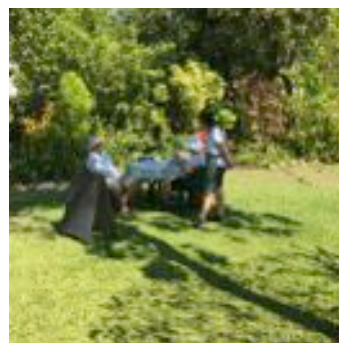


2.45pm

Back in the kitchen, the cakes are sliced, the cream has been whipped and stored in piping bags in the fridge, the milk jugs have been filled, the tea is brewing and the urns have been topped up ready for the onslaught.

2.55pm

Back in the Garden, the first orders are being taken and it is on for one and all.



IN THE LAUNDRY

3.30pm - 3.45pm

The first tables are being cleared by the outside volunteers and the Laundry Team swings into action, making sure that all items are rinsed, washed, dried and stored ready for re-use for the new orders coming in to the kitchen in a constant stream.

The Laundry Team will be in action until well after the last visitors leave around 5.15pm.

That's a lot of cups, saucers, spoons, plates, knives, milk jugs, teapots, coffee plungers, jam dishes and glasses.

Meanwhile guests keep arriving at the front door in a constant stream.



IT'S A WRAP

5.00pm - 5.45pm

The last customers are thinking about leaving and going to pay at the Cashier's Desk while the rest of the crew are starting to pack up. Tables cleared, chairs and tables back to the shed, crockery and glassware back in the kitchen. Meanwhile the House has to be shut down and the days takings added up.



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As you can see, a Sunday Afternoon Tea at Burnett House doesn't just magically happen. It takes the time and effort of a valuable team of Volunteers.

First and foremost is Anna Harris, who has run the Teas for many years. The amount of work she does is amazing - baking cakes and scones, stocktaking and shopping, setting up, putting away, filling the water bottles, whipping cream, slicing lemons, washing tea towels and tablecloths, ironing, organising volunteer rosters and much much more. She is ably assisted by Dee Preston making the teas and coffees, Kathryn Chandler with food presentation, Joyce Morrison on washing up and general supervision, Bill Porte who runs the Cashier's desk, and Chief Waitress Karen Doel.

This core team is assisted by a group of part-time helpers including Helen Bate, Alexis Clarke, Helen Dwyer, Bernie Eggington, Justine Dowling and her Girl Guides, Tami Greal, Trish Greenfield, Ron Harris, Val Hamilton, Hema Miligajjar, Julie Mastin, Joan Moore, Chris Millowick, Renata Mohrbach, Jenny Norris, Judy Orme, Felicity Pidgeon, Brooke Phillips, Maxina Parkes, Judy Richardson, Bec and Emily Smith, Brahminy Tuminello, Pippa Featherstone and Orchard Somerville-Collie.

Together this dedicated team have served over 1100 afternoon teas to visitors and raised more than \$10,900 for the Larrakeyah Branch in the last 7 months. This effort is greatly appreciated by the Larrakeyah Branch Committee.

NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS !

Anna has recently announced that she will not be involved in co-ordinating afternoon teas next year. This will inevitably create more work for the existing team. The Branch Committee however is determined to continue afternoon teas next year (it's a Darwin Tradition after all) and is hoping that Members will be prepared to help out in any way they can - moving furniture, baking cakes, washing tea towel, etc etc. You've read the article so get the idea.

If you can help in any way please contact the Branch Chair- Orchard Somerville-Collie at collieo@ozemail.com.au



The Larrakeyah Branch of the National Trust (NT) thanks Linda Coulter at John Elferink's Electoral Office for printing all our Burnett House leaflets over the years. Thank you Minister Elferink and Electorate Officer Linda Coulter for all your assistance over the years.

Gulf Branch News

Renovations started on the 11th August to start renovations on the caged area, aka Creche under the old Borrooloola welfare house to create a new display area for Trust, local arts and visiting displays! The area has been stripped out the floor has been poured and starting to rewire for electrical, wall frames installed and window and wall cladding all ordered! Under the Supervision of Allan, Neville and the rest of the team from Cairns.



Thanks to Funding Support through the MRM Glencore Community Benefit Trust.

Thanks to Clara Roberts for looking after the old Police Station whilst Glen was in Katherine, who unfortunately came down with the dreaded flu..

Looking into the new display area, external walls are been re- cladded



Gulf Branch received funding through the NT Community Benefits Grants to assist with the costs to design and construction of the new Police interpretation panels, which our fantastic Graphic Artist Leonie from Graphics'll Doo, has designed, after Eddie hard working president Eddie researched another terrific job from Leonie whom was also responsible for the artwork in the last Borrooloola Publication! Branch members also updated the Borrooloola Police Service Roll, and Booklet, as the last time was 1999 so in need of updating! The Gulf Branch is getting ready for the official unveiling for the 130th Anniversary of the arrival of the first resident Magistrate Mc Minn and the first resident Mounted constable Michael Donegan and MC William Curtis on the 29th

September, Gulf Trust Members will be having an informal local unveiling, in the morning with local residents before the formal legal function in the evening.

The Branch also recently received the good news that it was successful in gaining a Territory Remembers WW2 grant for the B24 aeroplane story and the Impact that this had on not only the pilots but also the people of Borrooloola and the Gulf Country through the Aeroplane Dance! Again Eddie has been busy researching and writing and Leonie hopefully will create her magic once again!

Congratulations to the National Trust NT especially to the Two Trevor's Horman and Menzies for all their work in saving part of the Territory with the official re- Launch of No 1 McMinn Street aka Road Masters House! The first property saved by the Trust in 30th Years.

Janet Leather
Gulf Branch Secretary